

Ethnographic Categories

Color code your fieldnotes based on these categories. Use highlighters and other markings to create a key on this page. You may also create new categories based on your observations.

- artifacts (THINK: the tools/objects the subculture needs to perform tasks)
- built environment (THINK: Setting, how seating is arranged, wall decorations)
- leadership structure (THINK: Who is the leader? How do others fit in? Is there a clear leader or is it not apparent? Established hierarchy?)
- common behaviors (THINK: Things individuals do that others do, as well, e.g. telling jokes, sharing personal stories, wiping down equipment after use)
- common values/beliefs (THINK: Do they have a collective goal? Are their individual goals similar? What values are necessary to belong in the group? Example: Do the members value being punctual? respectful?)
- common rituals (THINK: Things they do repeatedly in the same fashion when they meet together, e.g. every time they meet, the leader reveals the daily agenda, then they break into small groups to complete their tasks)
- common language (THINK: Lingo/Terminology? Formal? Casual? Swearing? Slang?)
- common dress (THINK: Uniforms and/or other identifying clothing or accessories, casual, formal)
- common experiences (THINK: Things they “do” together, e.g. attending a meeting, a birthday party)
- shared history (THINK: Background relationships; relationships outside the subculture and/or before becoming a member of the subculture)

Others?